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Respondent: Nellie Erickson Lueder

Interviewer: Deborah Nicolls

Oct, 25, 1983

SECS Project

Side A

- 0:00 Introduction
- 1:00 Nellie was born in Minneapolis in 1907, came to Sacramento in 1912. Life in Minneapolis.
- 2:00 Nellie's father Axel Erickson born in Oct. 1877 in Sweden, her mother in 1885.
- 3:00 Neelie's parents meet on the boat coming over in 1905. Are seperated at Ellis Island and meet again accidentally in Minneapolis.
- 5:00 Mr. Erickson in construction in Minneapolis, trained in Sweden.
- 6:00 How the Erickson family came to California Enticed by land developers, Mr. Erickson traded a home in Minneapolis for twenty acres of hard-pan off of Auburn Blvd.
- 8:00 Nellie, her mother, and her brothers join her father here in 1912.
- 9:00 Mr. Erickson sells his twenty acres and buys five acres of bottom-land on Pope Ave, where he raised fruit trees.
- 10:00 Mrs. Erickson's homesickness for Minneapolis prompted the sale of the property on Pope Ave., but fear of an epidemic of infantile paralysis kept the Ericksons in Sacramento.
- 11:00 Mr. Erickson's business practises.
- 14:00 Some of the buildings Mr. Erickson constructed.
- 15:00 Raising fruit and vegetables for home consumption, something most people in North Sacramento did.
- 16:00 A discussion of the Halvaard Jorstad family, who live $\frac{1}{2}$ block away.
- 17:00 Mr. Erickson's building career. Her father builds first bank in North Sacramento and first library, ca. 1920.
- 18:00 Nellie's three brothers are trained as carpenters by their father. They go into business with their father. Their building career during WWII.
- 21:00 Nellie's happy school days at North Sacramento School, which in 1916 had 4 class rooms. Boys and girls played baseball

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together.

- 22:00 Nellie attended Methodist Sunday school off of Del Paso Blvd.
- 23:00 The formation of Zion Lutheran Church by Swedes in 1917. Getting to church by jitney and street car.
- 24:00 Nellie is confirmed on June 4, 1922.
- 25:00 Going to the Mary Jane Watson High School on 15th and J St.
- 26:00 Nellie's father takes her out of school and sends her to Healds Business School. Afterwards she works for an auto parts store for one year and then for the Southern Pacific until 1937, in both Sacramento and San Francisco.
- 27:00 A discription of North Sacramento in the twenties and thirties. Nellie's mother baked six loaves of bread every two days.
- 28:00 Nellie remembers the influenza epidemic of 1918-19 and reading the lists of dead in the Sacramento Bee.
- 29:00 How the Ericksons socialized. Playing whist with the neighbors; the Hansons and Simonsens (Danes) and the S.A. Wroolies (Norwegians from South Dakota).
- 30:00 Another discription of North Sacramento.

Side B

- 31:00 How Nellie's mother got the influenza in 1918.
- 32:00 Nellie helped raise her three younger brothers. She and her mother divided housekeeping by rooms. The boys played. Mrs. Erickson also took care of the garden, the cow, and the chickens.
- 33:00 Nellie's brothers are put to work when they turned 14 and never finished high school.
- 34:00 Nellie worked at the pencil factory (Essex Lumber Co.) one summer.
- 35:00 The Ericksons did not attend church regularly or socialize much.
- 36:00 Nellie remembers a Christmas party at the Vasa Orden, a Swedish organization.
- 37:00 How the Ericksons celebrated Christmas. Not in a traditional Swedish manner.
- 38:00 All of the Erickson's family and friends were in Minneapolis (or Sweden).
- 39:00 How Mrs. Erickson learned English. Nellie can understand

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Swedish, but cannot speak it.

39:00 Nellie visisted Sweden in 1933, 1950, 1970 and reflects on how it has become Americanized.

41:00 Nellie remembers the Rhoden's grocery store (Swedish) in downtown Sacramento.

42:00 Nellie's father not involved in politics.

42:00 Was the Ericksons family Americanized? They had a new car every year and her father and brothers were workaholics.

43:00 The annual two week summer vacations. Going to Lake Tahoe took two days. Indians at Lake Tahoe reputed to be dangerous when drunk.

45:00 The Ericksons visit Minneapolis for a summer and Nellie is quite popular as a California girl.

46:00 Following the Yellowstone Trail to Minneapolis in 1925 and coming back through the south. The old time travel conditions.

48:00 Nellie's brothers marry women of German descent and Nellie marries a German immigrant in 1928. Mr. Lueder worked first for Ebels Flower Shop, then for the Oakland Flower Shop, in both Sacramento and Oakland, until he died in 1967.

49:00 Nellie's daughter a graduate of Healds Business College.

50:00 As a girl, Nellie was closest to her mother because she spent the most time with her, since a girl's place was in the house.